

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00
/055 W

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R 061430Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5704
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USICA WASHDC

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VIENNA FOR VOA:PEMSTEIN; USICA FOR EU

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CZ, PROP, SHUM, PINT

SUBJECT: WEST GERMAN CORRESPONDENT EXPELLED

1. JULY 4 MFA PRESS DEPARTMENT CHIEF, JOSEF HADRAVEK, OFFICIALLY INFORMED WEST GERMAN ARD CORRESPONDENT HELMUT CLEMENS HE HAD TO LEAVE CSSR WITHIN 48 HOURS. ACCORDING CLEMENS, EXPULSION ORDER GIVEN BECAUSE OF TAPED INTERVIEWS WITH LEADING CZECHOSLOVAK DISSIDENTS INCLUDING JIRI HAJEK, JIRI HANZELKA AND FRANTISEK KREIGEL ON THE EVENTS OF 1968 VIEWED FROM THE VANTAGE POINT OF TEN YEARS LATER. THE INTERVIEWS ARE SCHEDULED FOR FRG TELECASTING AUGUST 17.

2. CLEMENS CLAIMED HE HAD ALSO WRITTEN VARIOUS GOC OFFICIALS AND ASKED THEM PRESENT THEIR VIEWS ON QUESTIONS: 1) "WHAT WAS THE REAL INTENT OF THE REFORMERS OF 1968?" AND 2) "WHAT LED TO LATER TRAGIC EVENTS?" MFA RESPONDED BY CALLING HIM IN JUNE 6 AND ASKING HIS REASONS FOR REQUESTING INTERVIEWS.
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CLEMENS MENTIONED PROJECTED TELEVISION PROGRAM AND HIS DESSIRE PREPARE BALANCED REPORT REPRESENTING ALL POINTS VIEW.

3. CLEMENS' JULY 4 MEETING WITH MFA OFFICIALS WAS RELATIVELY LOW KEY. EXPULSION ORDER WAS READ AND HE WAS OSTENSIBLY ALLOWED REFUTE CHARGES. ACCORDING CLEMENS, HADRAVEK WENT SOME LENGTHS TO MAKE CLEAR IT WAS NOT PRESS DEPARTMENT

DECISION EXPEL HIM.

4. CLEMENS TOLD EMB OFF THAT OFFENDING INTERVIEWS HAD ALREADY BEEN SENT FRG AND PROGRAM COULD GO ON AS SCHEDULED IF ARD DECIDED USE MATERIAL.

5. PERHAPS IN DEFERNECE TO RECENT GOC EFFORTS IMPROVE BILATERAL TIES WITH FRG, MFA TOOK UNUSUAL STEP OF FIRST INFORMING WEST GERMAN EMBASSY GOC INTENT EXPEL CLEMENS PRIOR NOTIFYING HIM OFFICIALLY. SUBMISSION TO FRG EMBASSY EMPHASIZED CLEMENS' CONTACTS WITH DISSIDENTS AND INCLUDED DETAILED RECORD OF CONTACTS WITH DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL AS WELL AS HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS.

6. WITH EXPULSION CLEMENS, OFFICIAL NERVOUSNESS OVER PRESS TREATMENT ACCORDED 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRAGUE SPRING, DETECTABLE AS EARLY AS JANUARY THIS YEAR, REACHES A HIGH POINT. CLEMENS, WHO SERVED IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN PERIOD 1967-69 AND KNOWS PERSONALLY MANY INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED PRAGUE SPRING AND ITS AFTERMATH, WAS HIGHLY VISIBLE AND VULNERABLE TARGET. BY EXPELLING CLEMENS IN FACE RELATIONS WITH FRG, GOC DEMONSTRATED ITS GREAT SENSITIVITY TO ISSUE OF 10TH ANNIVERSARY AND SERVED NOTICE THAT JOURNALISTS BENT ON EXPLOITING NEWS VALUE OF EVENT ARE LIKELY TO BE DEALT WITH FIRMLY. IN PROCESS IT HAS POTENTIALLY ADDED MORE SPICE TO ARD'S AUGUST 17 PROGRAM.
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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 06 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Subject: WEST GERMAN CORRESPONDENT EXPELLED
TAGS: PROP, SHUM, PINT, CZ, (CLEMENS, HELMUT)
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Type: TE
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